

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 206418

1. APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON REFTEL
LIST OF AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. I ASSUME
AMBASSADOR HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PRESENT DRAFT DURING
MOST RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT.

2. IN GENERAL TERMS I BELIEVE REFTEL LIST ENCOMPASSES
ADEQUATELY THE MORE LIMITED INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH
UNDERLY THE USG APPROACH TO THAILAND IN THE POST-INDOCHINA
WAR PERIOD. MY ONLY MAJOR COMMENT WOULD BE THAT WE DO NOT
EXPLICITLY TOUCH ON THE QUESTION OF OUR BASIC POLITICAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RTG WHICH IN FACT ARE DIRECTLY
INFLUENCED BY USG CHANGED PERCEPTIONS WITH REGARD TO OUR
INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAILAND'S ROLE. WHILE
OPERATING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DIMINISHED INTEREST
AND INVOLVEMENT, WE STILL RETAIN THE DESIRE FOR A CON-
STRUCTIVE BASIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RTG. IT IS WITHIN
SUCH A BASIC RELATIONSHIP THAT WE PURSUE THE SPECIFIC
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OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN REFTEL AS WELL AS AVOID THE
APPEARANCE OF COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF ANY INTEREST OR ROLE IN
THAILAND WHICH WOULD ONLY ADD TO THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE
OF REGIONAL UNCERTAINTY.

EM CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD SUGGEST AN INITIAL ADDITIONAL
OBJECTIVE UNDER THE GENERAL POLITICAL LISTING. I WOULD

RECOMMEND THAT OUR INITIAL OBJECTIVE UNDER THE GENERAL POLITICAL SECTION BE AS FOLLOWS:

-- MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE, FRIENDLY, BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DIMINISHED PRESENCE, INTERESTS, AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE AREA, WHILE CONTINUING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THAILAND.

4. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE SUBSEQUENT GENERAL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES ALSO BE RECAST AS FOLLOWS:

-- REDUCE THE SIZE AND TIGHTEN THE ORGANIZATION OF OUR OFFICIAL PRESENCE TO MAKE IT MORE IN TUNE WITH OUR DIMINISHED INTERESTS IN THAILAND.
-- ENCOURAGE QUIETLY, AND AS APPROPRIATE, THAI EFFORTS TO FOSTER GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH ITS FELLOW ASEAN MEMBERS.
-- PROVIDE WHATEVER ENCOURAGEMENT IS FEASIBLE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.

5. I BELIEVE THAT THE ADDITION AMONG OUR OBJECTIVES OF THE REFERENCE TO ASEAN IS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF OUR CURRENT POLICY EFFORTS IN THE REGION. IT ALSO SERVES TO GIVE A BALANCED APPROACH RATHER THAN SIMPLY FOCUSING
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ON RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.

6. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT I HAVE CHANGED THE WORDING OF THE OBJECTIVE RELATING TO THE SIZE AND ORGANIZATION OF OUR OFFICIAL PRESENCE FROM "DIMINISHED ACTIVITIES" TO "DIMINISHED INTERESTS." AT THIS POINT OUR MAJOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES INCLUDE NARCOTICS, REFUGEES, AID AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IN NONE OF THESE IS THERE NOW CONTEMPLATED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE BEYOND THE JUSMAAG PERSONNEL REDUCTION. IN THE CASE OF REFUGEES, WE OBVIOUSLY ARE IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR, IF TEMPORARY, EXPANSION OF OUR ACTIVITIES. WASHINGTON AGENCIES NOW HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION CONTINUATION OF A SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL AID PROGRAM. MY SUGGESTED CHANGE IS NOT REPEATED NOT DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE THE THRUST OF THE STATED OBJECTIVE WITH REGARD TO REDUCTION AND TIGHTENING OF THE MISSION ORGANIZATION, BUT TO POINT UP THAT AT LEAST SOME OF OUR MAJOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ARE NOT GOING DOWN.
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